

*The University of Alberta
Diamond Jubilee Convocation
May 13, 1968*

THESE SIXTY YEARS



An address to the
Diamond Jubilee Convocation
by

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President
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Eminent Chancellor—This year, nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, The University of Alberta proudly celebrates six decades of service to the people of our province, of Canada, and of countries far beyond our national boundaries. May I express on behalf of my colleagues and of this assemblage, our appreciation of their presence on this platform to His Excellency, U Thant, citizen of the world and keeper of the conscience of mankind, to M. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and to Dr. Schneider, who now presides over our senior scientific Council in this country. For an all too brief interlude, these distinguished men have laid aside the burdens of their high offices to be with us at this milestone in the history of our University, and we are most grateful. Indeed, we are deeply sensible of the honor to The University of Alberta which is implied in their acceptance of this institution's honorary degree. This special Convocation will have a most memorable place in the pages of history of our University and in the minds and hearts of this great audience.

A detailed chronicle of "these sixty years" would be of little interest even to such a partisan audience as this, but I hope it may be possible, amid the ocean of names and statistics which mark our history, to identify some clear stream of faith and hope in the role and

Dr. Tory with his complete faculty in 1913—in front, Mssrs. MacEachran, Kerr, Broadus, Tory, W. H. Alexander, and Edwards; behind, Mssrs. Sheldon, Fairly, Race, Lewis, Burgess, Allan, and Lehman

the destiny of The University of Alberta.

The establishment of the University was the work of two very remarkable men—the Honourable Alexander Cameron Rutherford, and Dr. Henry Marshall Tory. Mr. Rutherford had come to Edmonton from Ontario in the late 1890's to practice law, had been chosen to lead the Liberal Party in the new Province, and on the day after Alberta became a Province, on September 2, 1905, he was chosen by the Lieutenant-Governor as its first Premier and asked to form a government. Elections for the first Legislature were held on November 9, 1905; the Liberals won an overwhelming victory; and the Legislature convened in 1906, with Mr. Rutherford as Premier, Minister of Education, and Provincial Treasurer. Among the first bills introduced was one authorizing the government to establish a non-sectarian, co-educational University. It was passed in spite of opposition from important quarters, including the local newspaper, and the evidence shows that much of the credit for its passing must go to Mr. Rutherford.

Once the decision had been made, there remained the questions of the site, the nature of the institution, and the choosing of a President. The matter of the site was tied in with that of a site for the provincial capital itself, and there was a strong claim for both from the City of Calgary. In the end, the capital came to Edmonton, the first Provincial Normal School was allocated to Calgary, and the University was given a site in the City of Strathcona, across the river from Edmonton, in Mr. Rutherford's own constituency. To make sure there would be adequate space for the new campus, the Premier had arranged for the purchase of an entire river lot of 258 acres for a campus. We are meeting today here in this auditorium on the site that Mr. Rutherford chose.

The nature of the institution was the next question demanding Mr. Rutherford's attention. His daughter, Mrs. S. H. McCuaig, recalls a visit he made in those early years of his administration to St. Paul, Minnesota, to examine the architecture of the State Capitol, and

there seems to be little doubt that he also looked into the organization of the University of Minnesota, and probably of the University of Wisconsin as well. These institutions had brought together into one administrative unit not only the faculties of liberal arts and science, but all those faculties which served the professions, and Mr. Rutherford believed that this was not merely appropriate, but was even vital to the success of the new University of Alberta, if it were to contribute adequately to the welfare of the province.

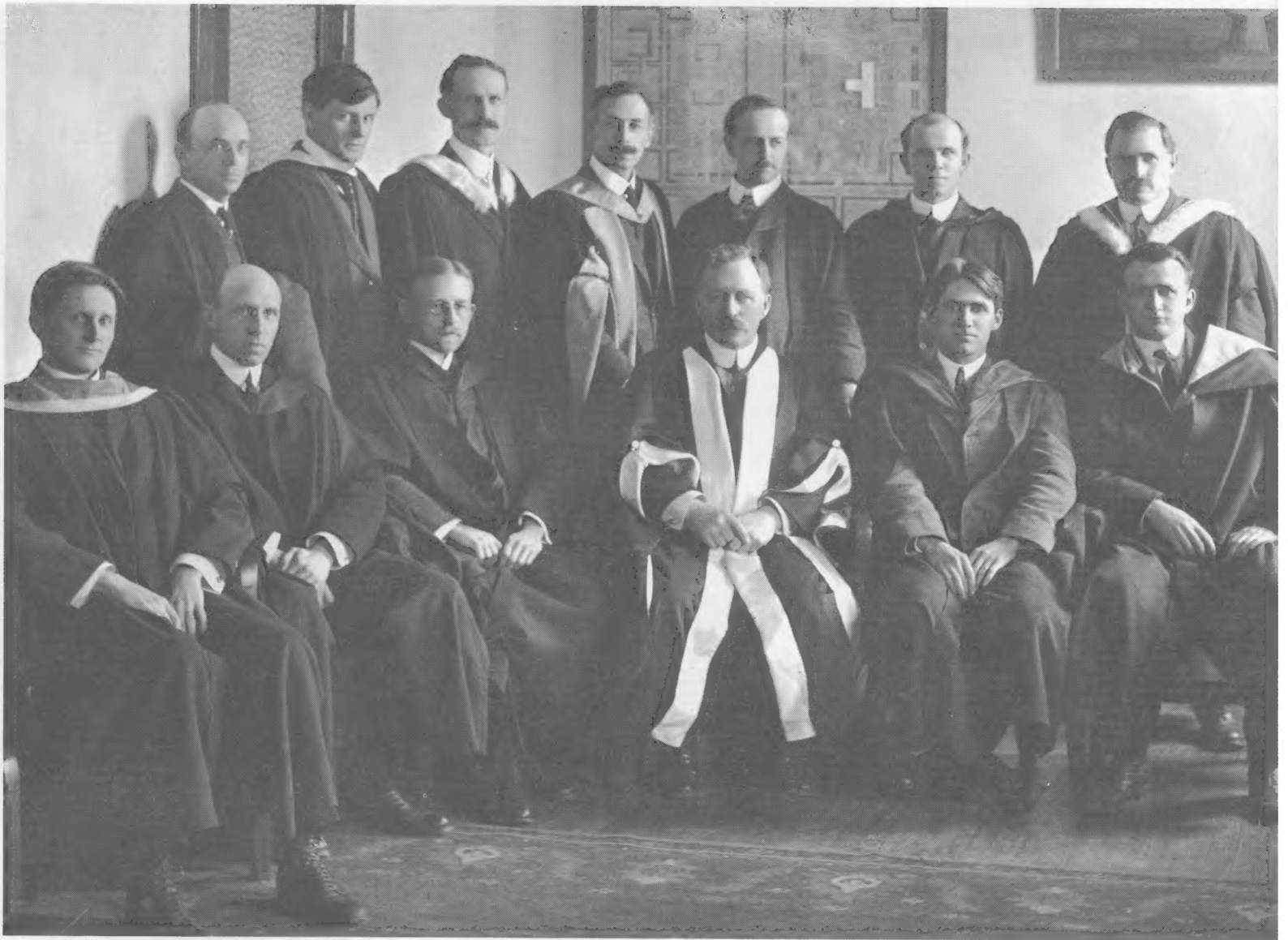
His next problem was to find exactly the right President, and being a McGill graduate, he naturally turned his attention there, instead of to the University of Toronto. Besides, early in 1906, he had met a McGill professor, Dr. H. M. Tory, who had stopped in Edmonton enroute home from his work in establishing "The McGill University College of British Columbia" and he and Mr. Rutherford had become close friends. The combination of Mr. Rutherford's persuasiveness and Dr. Tory's recognition of a great challenge in the Province of Alberta resulted in his accepting the Presidency of the new University as of January 1, 1908, and undertaking to begin classes in September if a building could be found.

Dr. Tory's vigour was probably unmatched in the academic world of his time, at least in Canada. In the first few months of 1908 he arranged for a Convocation of all University graduates in the Province, and about 350 responded. This group, made up of alumni from such universities as McGill, Toronto, Queen's, Dalhousie, Dublin, and Oxford, elected representatives to a Senate which would be responsible for administering the University's affairs along with other representatives named by the Government. I am very pleased, indeed, to say that one of the original members of that Convocation, Mr. S. A. Dickson, is still among us and is, I believe, attending this Convocation today. The Senate met on March 30, 1908, and authorized Dr. Tory to organize a Faculty of Arts and Science, hire the best faculty

he could find anywhere (but with preference given to Canadians insofar as possible), and begin operations in September.

Dr. Tory's next task was to find a faculty, books for a library, and equipment for a scientific laboratory. Perhaps we tend to view the past in a rosy haze and to regard the men of earlier days as greater than they really were, but even allowing for this natural human tendency, we must regard that first faculty as a remarkable group. Apart from Dr. Tory himself, who was unquestionably a great teacher and administrator, there was Dr. William Hardy Alexander, a graduate of Toronto, with a Ph.D. from California in classics, then teaching at the University of Western Ontario; Dr. Edmond Kemper Broadus from Virginia, with a Harvard Ph.D. in English; Mr. Luther Herbert Alexander from Toronto, working on a Ph.D. in modern languages at Columbia; and William Muir Edwards, an engineering graduate from McGill, who was teaching mathematics there. Dr. Tory himself had been prepared to teach mathematics and physics, but since there was no one with a special interest in history, he left the former to Mr. Edwards, and taught history himself.

A whole book could be written about Dr. Tory and his problems in those early years of the University—and the University's own collection of the Tory Papers would provide the resource material, quite apart from the later documents housed in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa. He was a man who made quick decisions and proceeded to carry them out, often without the necessary preliminary consultation or approval from other sources. He seemed to thrive on controversy, and he had plenty of it—on the subject of denominational institutions; on the Calgary College, which was established in 1912 and lasted to 1915; on agricultural education, about which he had differences of opinion with a large element of the farming population; on medical education, on which he was opposed by the redoubtable Mrs. Emily Murphy; the



plan for new buildings on the campus, which was opposed partly on financial and partly on architectural grounds, and many other subjects. To his everlasting credit, he was right on most of these disputes, and invariably won his case.

The University opened for classes on September 25, 1908, on the third floor of the Strathcona Public School, named after Queen Alexandra, moved to the new Strathcona High School the next year, and into Athabasca Hall on the new campus in 1911. Its first academic Convocation, which was in the nature of an opening ceremony, was held on October 13, 1908, and honorary degrees were conferred on the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable G. H. V. Bulyea, on the Chief Justice, Arthur L. Sifton, and on Premier Rutherford. Dr. Tory spoke with forceful eloquence on the role he believed the University should play in the

Province of Alberta, and I should like to quote one memorable passage from that memorable address:

The modern State University has sprung from a demand on the part of the people themselves for intellectual recognition, a recognition which only a century ago was denied them. The result is that such institutions must be conducted in such a way as to relate them as closely as possible to the life of the people. The people demand that knowledge shall not be the concern of the scholars alone. The uplifting of the whole people shall be its final goal. This should be the concern of all educated men; it should never be forgotten.

Surely most of us in the university community of sixty years later would subscribe to that creed, though with the changes in society that have taken place in the interval, the method of putting those ideals into practice may be a subject of dispute. The structure and the function of the ideal state has been debated ever since the days of Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero, and we

are far from agreement yet, but the search must go on and it is still the duty of the university community constantly to review the methods whereby it fulfils its many roles in studying society and its goals, in providing the professional competence to serve its citizens.

Dr. Tory's era was marked by a re-writing of the *University Act*, by the construction of the first major buildings on the campus, by the service overseas of many of its faculty and students in World War I, and by the President's own organization of Khaki University. This was established at Ripon, Yorkshire, through the Canadian YMCA, for soldiers being demobilized, but not yet able to secure passage home to Canada.

In 1919, Dr. Tory was back in Canada looking for new projects and he turned to the development of scientific research on a national basis. In brief, he laid the foundations of

Dr. Kerr, President of the University from 1936 to 1941

what was to become the National Research Council of Canada, and in 1928 he left The University of Alberta for Ottawa to give his full time to directing that institution. So far as The University of Alberta was concerned, it was the end of an era of great development and growth. New faculties, schools and departments had been established for Applied Science, Agriculture, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Accountancy, Household Economics, Nursing, and Architecture. A Committee on Graduate Studies was instituted, as well as a vigorous program of Extension. Enrolment had reached 1,500 students, and there was a faculty of 100 teachers. The University was well and truly established, and Dr. Tory must have felt that his work here was done. He never lost interest in it, however, and I shall never forget spending a whole afternoon with him during a meeting of the Learned Societies in London, Ontario, shortly before his death, which occurred in 1947, when he asked me about people he had known on the staff of the University and throughout the Province, and about the University's plans for the future. He was a man who rarely looked back, but always ahead.

In 1928, Dr. Tory was succeeded as President by Dr. R. C. Wallace, a distinguished Scottish geologist, who had been on the staff of the University of Manitoba for eighteen years. His were the years of the great Depression, during which the University budget actually decreased, faculty salaries were cut, and no construction took place. Registration rose during the decade to over 2,000, but staff numbers remained more or less static. Some new developments did take place—a School of Education for Graduates was set up to equip them for teaching in secondary schools, the Banff School of Fine Arts took its first faltering footsteps which led ultimately to that great institution which is a monument to the Honourable Senator Donald Cameron, Mount Royal College in Calgary was affiliated with the University and offered first-year courses in Arts and Science in that city, the Western Board of Music was



established, and fraternities were admitted to the campus (partly, I suspect, to help solve the problem of accommodation). Dr. Wallace had a very difficult period as President, but I am sure he left with some sense of accomplishment when he took up his new post as Principal of Queen's University in 1936.

The new President, Dr. W. A. R. Kerr, was well known to the whole University, since he had joined the faculty as Professor of French shortly after the University opened and had been Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science since 1914, a period of twenty-two years. By 1937 the high school system in Alberta had achieved a substantial development and classes at the level of Grade XII were widely available, with the result that the University was able to abandon admission at the level of Junior Matriculation and to require complete Grade XII standing for entrance. Dr. Kerr, as Dean and later as President, had much to do with this change. It was also during his presidency that the Faculty Relations Committee was established. It has since grown into the Association of Academic Staff, with national affiliation through the Canadian Association of University

Teachers. Dr. Kerr's term of office as President was not a happy one. The University was still feeling the effects of the Depression at its outset, the budget was static, and war was imminent. After 1939 the President began to see the inevitable consequence of the war in declining enrolment and the loss of staff and students to the war effort. In 1941 the Senate, as established under the *University Act* which Dr. Tory had drafted, rejected the recommendation of its committee on honorary degrees and none were awarded at the Spring Convocation. Since the Premier of the Province, the Honourable William Aberhart, was to have been a recipient, a most unhappy situation developed. The President, Dr. Kerr, retired from office, and the Chancellor, Dr. A. C. Rutherford, died not long afterwards. The heart-break that these two kind and beloved gentlemen suffered as a result of this action was only one of its consequences. Others were that Dr. Robert Newton, then Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, became Acting President, the Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Ford became Chancellor, and a survey committee was set up to review the organization and operation of



the University. committee composed of Honourable Mr. Parlee, then Chief of the Department of Education and H. C. Newland, Secretary of the Association, Mr. prominent Edmond Professor of Accountancy. As a result of the new *University Act*, 1942, which gave academic matters to the Board of the Council, final authority to the Board of the honorary degree liaison body between the general public

In May, 1942, confirmed as President for nine months had brought to the University of teaching, research experience of the difficult year served as Head



Three Presidents—Dr. Wallace (1928 to 1936), Dr. Newton (1942 to 1951), and Dr. Stewart (1951 to 1959)—at the formal opening of the Rutherford Library in 1951.

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the University. It was an excellent committee comprising the Honourable Mr. Justice H. H. Parlee, then Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Newton, Dr. G. Fred McNally, Deputy Minister of Education and later Chancellor, Mr. H. C. Newland, Chief Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John L. Barnett, Secretary of the Alberta Teachers' Association, Mr. F. G. Winspear, a prominent Edmonton businessman and Professor of Accountancy in the University. As a result of the report of the Committee, a new *University Act* was passed in 1942, which gave complete authority in academic matters to the General Faculty Council, final authority in all matters to the Board of Governors, and restricted the role of the Senate to recommending honorary degrees and acting as a liaison body between the University and the general public.

In May, 1942, Dr. Newton was confirmed as President, and he held that post for nine long, busy years. He had brought to the position a background of teaching, research, and administrative experience of great value to him in the difficult years of his presidency. He had served as Head of the Department of

Field Crops of The University of Alberta in the 1920's, and later, in 1931, had rejoined Dr. Tory in Ottawa as Director of the Division of Biology and Agriculture in the National Research Council. His interest in plant research was deep and sincere, and his accomplishments were outstanding, but his administrative abilities were so widely known and respected that, as a result, he had had numerous offers of senior positions in university and government work, all of which he had declined until his return to The University of Alberta as Dean of Agriculture.

In the remaining years of the war President Newton had to cope with a wide variety of problems occasioned by the loss of Faculty, the presence on the campus of units of Armed Services, the acceleration of classes in Medicine and Dentistry to meet war-time demands, and of making the new *University Act* fully operative.

All these paled into insignificance in 1945 when the first veterans returned and sought to enrol in University classes. Some required special tutoring in advance of admission, some arrived after the fall session had begun, but all were imbued with a desire for rehabilitation

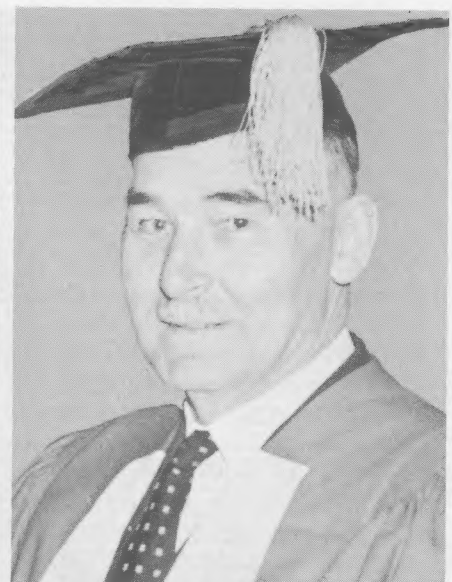
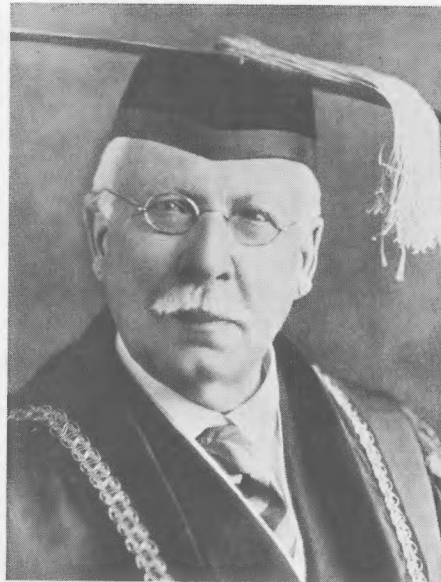
into civilian life and determined to make the most of their years at the University.

Classroom and laboratory space and equipment had to be found, teachers were required immediately and in large numbers, and housing had to be found, especially for those who were married. A new class had to be organized in January, 1946, above and beyond the large group which had registered in September and October of 1945. Instant buildings, instant instructors, instant living accommodation were not easy to find, but with the help of a loyal and enthusiastic staff, of the federal and provincial governments, and of the returning veterans themselves, the problems were solved and the University leaped ahead onto a new plateau of service. Registration in 1944-45 had been 2,679, the next year it reached 4,315, and in 1947-48 it was 4,941. These figures seem small in comparison with those of 1968, but they were almost enough to sink the academic ship at the time, even though we were all delighted to have these veterans, who were serious, mature students, back home again and on our campus.

The President knew, far better than most, that the old days would never return, and that the University must embark on a new and larger program of permanent buildings at once—and even amidst the inundation of the veteran classes, he had to begin plans for extensions to the Medical Building, a new Provincial Laboratory of Public Health, an Agriculture Building, a Library (which had been planned as early as 1929), an Engineering Building, a Students' Union Building, and many others. It may well be said that the Newton era began again where the Tory era had left off in the matter of the University's growth. As Dr. Newton's Assistant from February of 1947 until his retirement, I was constantly aware of the pressures under which he worked and the competence and despatch with which he was able to cope with his problems.

It was during the last year of the war that the University assumed responsibility for all teacher education

Dr. Rutherford, who as Alberta's first Premier fostered the establishment of the University, and later served as its Chancellor (at left); and Dr. F. P. Galbraith, the present Chancellor



in the province and the foundations were laid for our own Faculty of Education, which has since become an outstanding leader in its field in Canada, and the first steps were taken which were to lead to the establishment of The University of Calgary. These were years which took a heavy toll of President Newton's strength, and helped him decide to retire early, in 1951, instead of continuing on to age 65. This wise decision has been justified by the fact that he has been able to enjoy his retirement in good health and strength.

Once again the University chose a President from its own ranks and Professor Andrew Stewart, who had a long career of service which he began as Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, and which had led him successively to the positions of Head of the Department of Political Economy, Director of the School of Commerce, and Special Adviser on the Business Affairs of the University. His was a period which combined a consolidation of the immediate post-war development with the shaping of plans for still further advances. A new School of Physiotherapy was established in 1954 to cope with the effects of the last of the great epidemics of poliomyelitis, many new departments were formed, old departments were split, and schools were enlarged into faculties.

Building once more became a problem and a new era of planning began. The space remaining on the campus was carefully analyzed and plans made which produced the Biology Wing in the Agricultural Building, new buildings for Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, a new wing on the Medical Building almost as large as the original structure, a large addition to the new Engineering Building and many more. In planning these and other buildings it was felt that the student population might level off at perhaps seven or eight thousand and in fact the Physical Sciences complex was planned for a total student population of 6,500, though it was hoped that more could be accommodated if necessary.

Today, with a student population of 13,000, the accommodation for the physical sciences, which looked so generous at that

time, is obviously completely inadequate.

Dr. Stewart's decade—the 1950's—was one of healthy growth and change, but it had not yet reached explosive proportions. During his term of office he had been under continuous pressure to lend his talents to the work of the Royal Commissions, and he had numerous opportunities to turn to other activities. He successfully resisted these blandishments, however, until late in 1958, when he succumbed to the voice of Ottawa and resigned his presidency, effective January 31, 1959. We are delighted to welcome him and Mrs. Stewart home again to Edmonton, as Chairman of the Universities Commission, and once more a part of the academic life of the province he served so long and has loved so well.

I had come to The University of Alberta in 1938 as a Lecturer in Classics, and Dr. W. H. Alexander left to head the Department of Classics at the University of California, and after various administrative duties I joined Dr. Stewart as Vice-President in 1957, to be appointed President when he resigned at the end of 1958, and succeeding him on February 1, 1959, in that office.

This final decade of our University's sixty years has been the period of the great explosion in student numbers, in numbers of staff, in greatly increased research activity, and in additional building. It has also been the period in which the parking problem has grown to such dimensions that today it is one of our greatest headaches. I mention this, not for the purpose of injecting a frivolous note into my remarks, but to indicate how problems quite unknown and perhaps not even thought of in Dr.

Tory's day can loom so menacingly fifty or sixty years later.

The year in which I took office as President the enrolment on the Edmonton campus was 4,783, including 264 graduate students. The Calgary branch had 543 undergraduates, making a total on the two campuses of 5,326. For the year 1968-69 we expect about 14,400 students here, with about 1,700 in Graduate Studies. Calgary alone expects as many as the combined total of the two campuses was ten years ago and we nearly three times that number.

Our operating budget for 1958-59 was \$5,747,000 net, with \$230,000 allocated to the Library. In the year ahead we are looking to an operating budget of about \$44 million net, with nearly \$3.5 million for the Library. These figures represent a substantial increase over last year, when our net operating budget was \$35,800,000 and our Library budget about \$2.8 million. We are facing, therefore, an increase in our net budget of about 23 per cent, and, in the Library budget, of about 25.5 per cent over last year. A part of this increase is to cover rising costs, and increased sophistication in our operations, and part of it to provide for new students. No period in the University's long history has seen anything equivalent to this growth and I cannot deny that it has resulted in growing pains of a serious nature.

We are enjoying the benefits of a new *Universities Act*, promulgated in 1966, and designed to provide for a more up-to-date organization, as well as for the division of the two main campuses into separate institutions, and also provide for additional institutions, one of which, The University of

Lethbridge, has already been established. One of the provisions of the new Act permits the appointment of Vice-Presidents, and I am happy to say that The University of Alberta has been most fortunate in the talent it has been able to attract to these important offices.

It is true, however, that the machinery which was adequate even for the student body of 8,000, begins to creak ominously when the figure passes 13,000, and we are faced today with the problem of instituting changes which will make the operation of budgets, appointments, promotions, and other essential activities more effective.

The growing size of the University community has necessitated very substantial expenditures on University buildings, and in recent years we have seen such structures as the new Education Building, the Cameron Library, the Henry Marshall Tory Building, the Physical Education Building, the Household Economics Building, the Nuclear Research Centre, and many other structures take form and shape.

Beyond these, however, loom ever larger buildings such as the Biological Science Centre, the Clinical Sciences Building on the Hospital campus, the General Services Building on 116 Street, and a whole complex of new buildings in North Garneau, beginning, I most fervently hope, with the new Law Building, to be followed by buildings for the humanities, the fine arts, social sciences, including Business Administration, a humanities library, accommodation for Agriculture, and other buildings elsewhere on land held by the University here on the main campus or on the University Farms.

In recent years great steps have been made in providing accommodation for students, but it has not been possible to keep up with the rapidly accelerating demand. Lister Hall, with its third dormitory to be opened this fall, is a monument to the memory of one of the truly great members of our non-academic staff; Michener Park, near the corner of 122 Street and 45 Avenue, honors by name the present Governor General, who is one of our

distinguished graduates, the late Governor General Vanier, and our three most recent Lieutenant-Governors, Dr. Bowlen, Dr. Page, and Dr. MacEwan. But none of these structures is adequate, and plans are already being made to add new structures for student residences elsewhere. Social changes accompany growth, and the new structures may be designed and operated in an entirely different manner from anything that has been regarded as conventional and correct in the past.

At the same time the University must carry out detailed planning in the field of curriculum and the allocation of resources for a wide variety of faculties and schools. New demands are constantly being made for new types of professional education. A School of Library Science is to begin operation this fall, and a Department of Audiology and Speech Therapy is under consideration, along with a School of Architecture and Environmental Design.

As the institution grows its character inevitably changes. When I came here 30 years ago it was possible for a member of the staff, and indeed for the President, to know each member of the staff personally, and also a great many of the students. Today this is impossible and the President's role must be carried out indirectly through his colleagues in many areas where, under previous régimes, he could be intimately involved in decision making and in helping to mold the character of the institution he served. These days are passing in the major universities of the Western World and I believe that any attraction the office of President may once have held is being lost in the process.

The character of the student is changing too, as indeed it has always changed over the years. The student of today is more sophisticated than any of his predecessors; he is able to see much farther afield, and to set his sights on much more distant horizons than were dreamed of in my generation. I cannot help thinking that this increased awareness has laid on his young shoulders a heavier burden of responsibility than many of us felt bound to carry. It may be that the problems of our society

are increasingly difficult (and I believe they are) with the concentration of individuals in vast cities, and the community of mankind expanding to encompass the whole world. The student of 1968 is not only driven by a compulsion to correct social injustices, but is insisting on his right to decide how and where this should be done. His belief in old values and traditions is being eroded; his waning faith drives him to demand answers to the ultimate questions which concern him; and he is no longer satisfied with the clichés nor textbook analyses of the past.

I cannot close this narrative without referring to the contributions to our University by many thousands of persons who cannot be listed by name. There are the many distinguished professors who have taught, and who now teach here, and the thousands of graduates who, by their contributions to society, have brought honor to their alma mater. There are the members of Boards of Governors who have given time and thought to the welfare of the University far beyond the call of duty. There are those who have worked to organize the Alumni and The Friends of the University into groups dedicated to the University's welfare. And finally, there are the successive governments and the people of this province who have paid the bills to produce the major University we see today.

This is the point at which The University of Alberta stands today—sixty years after its founding. The road ahead is not an easy one, nor can it be successfully travelled by one whose only reaction to its difficulties is cynicism or despair. Our greatest hope for the future surely must lie in the mutual understanding and appreciation of youth with age, idealism with reality, impetuosity with reasoned action. In another forty years The University of Alberta should celebrate its Centennial. Let us today re-dedicate ourselves to the search for “whatsoever things are true”—*Quaecumque vera!*—this is our motto; let us live up to it.

